



Personal Pathways to success™

TRIDENT REGIONAL EDUCATION CENTER

ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of 01.14.09

Present: *Rob Kerr (chair), Don Nye, Joan Anderson, Jan Faulkner, Keith Oliver, Mary Runyon, Joan Ustin, Lou Dubon, Patricia Ferguson (coordinator)*

Partner: *Melody Taylor (fiscal agent representative)*

Guests: *Dr. Gene Schwarting (EED CC RECC), Brenda Williams (SCDE), Bill Barlow (Kuder)*

The following agenda items were addressed.

A. Call To Order

Rob Kerr called the meeting to order at 8:06a and thanked Keith Oliver for the use of the Helmly Assembly Room at the Home Telephone Company for the meeting.

B. Minutes of November 19, 2008

Don Nye motioned for the approval of the November 19, 2008 minutes and Mary Runyon seconded with full acceptance by the RECAB.

C. EED CC/RECC Updates

Dr Gene Schwarting provided updates on the Personal Pathways to Success initiative including:

Personal Pathways budget

The Service Building and Gap Analysis grants will not be funded. The RECs have been advised to sequester an additional 10% of the budget to satisfy pending budget reductions. The EED CC expects a 4% reduction by June 30, 2009. Final decisions will be made on January 27, 2009.

Dr. Schwarting informed the RECAB that the REC Coordinators have partnered with the SC Commission on Higher Education to implement a College Access grant throughout the state. The RECs will share \$45, 000 to provide information about post-secondary options to parents and students.

He informed the members that the coordinators will have access to an intranet-type service that will provide real-time access to information for coordinators and RECABs. Dr. Schwarting also advised that C2B was gaining interest throughout the state and Bill Barlow would share an update during the meeting.

REC

Dr. Schwarting announced that the Santee Lynches region hired Brenda G. Wilhite as the REC coordinator.

SCDE REC Liaison

Dr. Schwarting introduced Brenda Williams who will replace him upon his retirement on June 30, 2009. Mrs. Williams will report to SCDE and act as a liaison to the Regional Education Center Advisory Panel, RECAP.

Mrs. Williams expressed her optimism for South Carolina's new Personal Pathways initiative and mentioned that the REC Coordinators would meet on January 22, 2009.

501c3 Status

Dr. Schwarting advised the members that the 501c3 question presented by the Trident RECAP will be addressed at a later date. Jim Reynolds will briefly discuss the topic during the Coordinators' meeting on January 22, 2009.

Connect2Business, C2B

Bill Barlow of Kuder (C2B vendor) shared information about the C2B program being piloted in the Trident. He distributed C2B brochures and discussed the statewide needs for the system. Mr. Barlow requested that the RECAP assist in populating the system with local businesses. He advised that RECAP members would not sell C2B to businesses; yet, members would promote the program and encourage businesses to register as it takes only 8 – 10 minutes to do so. He also advised that Kuder would seek large businesses to partner with them in sponsoring C2B. He mentioned that SCANA, Blue Cross Blue Shield, ATT, BMW, Progress Energy, Palmetto Health, Hospital Association and New Carolina have expressed an interest in the new Personal Pathways program. He also requested that the RECAP support the program verbally. Mr. Barlow mentioned that during a few meetings in Charleston he recalls noting the interesting fact schools would see an 8 – 10 increase in the need for extended learning opportunities and the schools cannot do it alone. Thus, he encouraged the board to provide strong support for C2B. He advised that such support would help to alleviate the misconceptions that have surfaced about C2B. In conclusion, he reminded the board that C2B belongs to the RECAP, RECC and EED CC. Following his presentation, RECAP members expressed the following:

Joan Anderson: How many Trident businesses have registered?

Bill Barlow will forward a list.

Keith Oliver: Given the REC's role in promoting the system, how do the funds come back to the state to impact South Carolina?

Bill Barlow did not have the necessary data to discuss the actual sharing levels. However, he did indicate that some of the funds collected would be utilized to pay the license fee for C2B which would allow the system to be self-sustaining. He mentioned that the Basic level would begin at \$100 per year beginning June 2010. Mr. Barlow stated that the C2B sponsorship levels provide different features to businesses especially given the adult learner component.

Rob Kerr: With the consistent mission of The Education Foundation, TREC and Kuder to connect business and education, representatives of each organization met on December 05, 2008 to discuss combining efforts to promote C2B. The Education Foundation would assist Kuder in registering businesses on the system. The Education Foundation is creating a letter of agreement and it will be circulated among the RECAP members for review.

Keith Oliver: This collaborated strategy could certainly create a teamwork atmosphere and build a strong comfort level for what we are asked to do in promoting the system. It would certainly help in promoting C2B if the distinction between the school and adult piece were a bit clearer. It makes sense that businesses would pay as they find value in the system.

Don Nye: Yes, as we begin to promote C2B, it is critical to make the distinction between the K12 portion and the adult portion.

Rob Kerr: We will continue to review the system. In the meantime, all RECAB members are asked to register on C2B to assist with the pilot effort.

D. TREC Project Highlight:

1. TREC 2008

Patricia Ferguson shared a TREC 2008 slideshow presentation that highlighted the 2008 progress and upcoming 2009 projects of TREC including committee reports.

2. Cluster Coalition

Because of their difficulty and that of other organizations to hire individuals for certain career occupations, a local employer advised the Trident RECAB regarding a need to convene regional business, education and community stakeholders to review the concerns and suggest potential solutions. The employer requested that the RECAB serve as the initial convener of the group. The RECAB agreed that the Partner Committee should review the need for the project and submit a recommendation to the RECAB at the next meeting.

E. Old Business

R. Kerr advised the members about the difficulty in securing RECAB nominations from the local legislative delegations. He suggested that the RECAB needed to recommend an alternative process to the REC Committee. R. Kerr asked B. Williams and G. Schwarting to please review this need for the RECAB.

Jan Faulkner agreed to provide a follow-up phone call to Senator Larry Grooms. Keith Oliver agreed to discuss the appointment needs with Senator Paul Campbell. Mr. Lou DuBon asked if the IRC and SHRM vice Chairs could serve on the RECAB. R. Kerr advised that these individuals could certainly serve on the RECAB once appointed by the delegation. However, any community member could serve on a RECAB committee.

F. Discussions/Announcements

Joan Anderson mentioned that some of the Service Building grant proposals may provide some good projects for the RECAB to initiate. P. Ferguson agreed to submit a summary of the Service Building grant proposals to the members.

Jan Faulkner asked P. Ferguson to follow-up with the Charleston and Dorchester County School Districts regarding the requested counselor and partner committee meeting.

R. Kerr thanked the guests and members for attending the meeting. He also thanked K. Oliver for hosting the meeting.

G. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:36a.